

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 10-15 were pending when last examined, all of which stand rejected. Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 12-15 are amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claims 3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. “an operation control signal” recited in these claims have been amended to “the operation control signal” to clearly refer back to “an operation control signal” recited in Claim 2.

Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. The “provision” is clarified as being “provision of data voltages.”

Based on the foregoing, rejections under this section are overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 11-15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,356,260 to Montalbo (“Montalbo”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0048249 to Sekido (“Sekido”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,680,722 to Hiraki et al. (“Hiraki”).

Claim 1 is patentable over a combination of Montalbo, Sekido, and Hiraki because it recites the following:

...the timing controller does not provide the image data of the nth line to the data driver when all bits of the image data of the nth line and the image data of the (n-1)th line are equal, and wherein the timing controller also does not provide the image data of the nth line to the data driver when all bits of the image data of the nth line and the image data of the (n-1)th line are complementary to each other.

As stated in the Application, for example on page 10, lines 24 through page 11, line 19, the timing controller of the invention does not provide the image data of the nth line (“nth image data”) to the data driver when all bits of the image data of the nth line and the image data of the (n-1)th line are complementary to each other.

The Office Action dated June 13, 2008 (“the Office Action”) acknowledges that Montalbo does not explicitly disclose a timing controller that performs in the manner recited in

Claim 1 (see Office Action, page 5). The Office Action, however, states that Sekido's paragraphs [0049] – [0050] disclose the timing controller of Claim 1 (see Office Action, page 6).

Applicants respectfully disagree that Sekido discloses a timing controller that “does not provide the image data of the nth line to the data driver when all bits of the image data of the nth line and the image data of the (n-1)th line are complementary to each other.” Sekido generally describes a drive circuit device for a display device. In its paragraph [0049], Sekido describes comparing the display data signal of the previous pixel and the display data signal of the next pixel to determine whether the display data signals should be inverted or not. Sekido's paragraph [0050] provides the example of a situation where data for the previous pixel is white and data for the next pixel is black. In this case, the display data signals are inverted.

The situation described in Sekido's paragraphs [0049] and [0050] is distinguishable from Claim 1 because Sekido compares the data in different pixels (previous pixel and next pixel). This is different from the timing controller of Claim 1, which compares data in different lines (nth line and (n-1)th line).

Furthermore, although the Office Action points to Sekido's elements 40, G1, and G2 as corresponding to a “timing controller,” these elements are in fact data registers that transmit a signal Sa to the neighboring data circuit board (see Sekido, paragraph [0034]).

For at least the above reasons, Claim 1 is distinguishable from the combination of Montalbo, Sekido, and Hiraki.

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, and 11 depend from Claim 1 and are thus patentable over the references for the same reasons as Claim 1.

Claim 12 is patentable over Montalbo, Sekido, and Hiraki because it recites “... comparing image data of an (n-1)th line provided in advance and image data of an nth line being provided currently.” As explained above in reference to Claim 1, Sekido teaches comparing pixels, not lines as recited in the claims. Hence, Claim 12 is patentable over Montalbo, Sekido, and Hiraki.

Claims 13-15 depend from Claim 12 and are thus patentable over Hiraki for the same reason as Claim 12.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Montalbo, Sekido, and Hiraki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,624,868 to Terukina et al. (“Terukina”). This rejection is

based on the assumption that Montalbo, Sekido, and Hiraki disclose all the elements of Claim 1. However, as explained above, this is not the case. Thus, Claim 10 is patentable over a combination of Montalbo, Sekido, Hiraki, and Terukina.

Conclusion

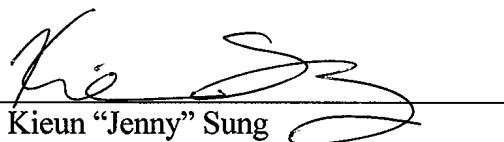
Based on the foregoing, Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 10-15 are now in condition for allowance. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2257. Please telephone the undersigned attorney at (408) 392-9250 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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